



PADMINI

A TALE OF LOVE AND HONOUR

Vol 605





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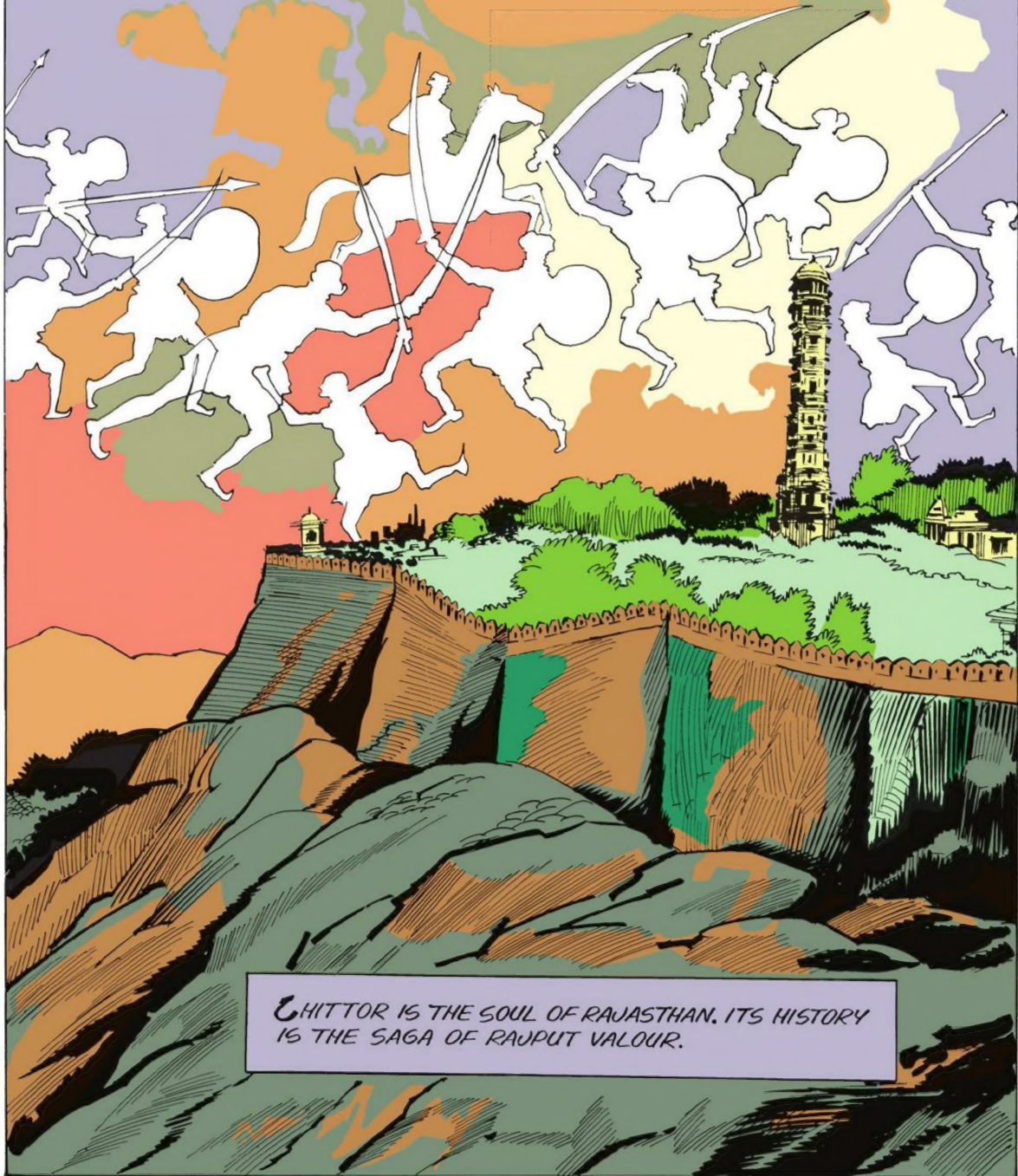
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Amar Chitra Katha Pvt Ltd

© Amar Chitra Katha Pvt Ltd 1973, Reprinted August 2015 ISBN 978-81-8482-291-5
Published by Amar Chitra Katha Pvt. Ltd., 201 & 202, Sumer Plaza,
2nd Floor, Marol Maroshi Road, Andheri (East), Mumbai- 400 059, India
Printed at Indigo Press (India) Pvt Ltd, Plot No. 1C/716, Off Dadoji Konddeo Cross Road,
Between Sussex And Retiwala Ind. Estate, Byculla (E) Mumbai- 400 027. India
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PADMINI



RAJA RATNASEN, A VALIANT RULER OF CHITTOR
WAS ALSO A LOVER OF MUSIC.

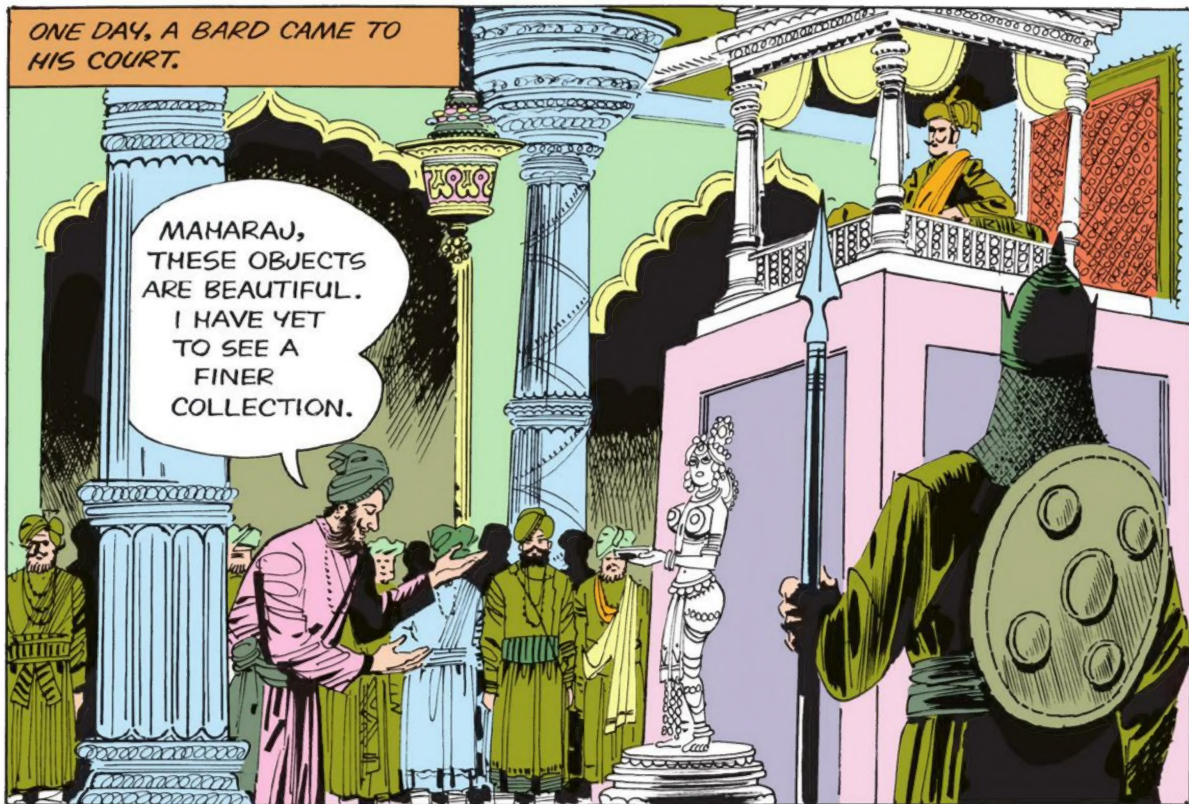


HE WAS ALSO A LOVER OF BEAUTY AND FINE-ARTS.



ONE DAY, A BARD CAME TO HIS COURT.

MAHARAJ,
THESE OBJECTS
ARE BEAUTIFUL.
I HAVE YET
TO SEE A
FINER
COLLECTION.



...BUT, PARDON
ME, MAHARAJ,
NOTHING HERE
EQUALS THE
BEAUTY OF
PADMINI.

PADMINI?



YES,
MAHARAJ, PADMINI
THE PRINCESS
OF SINHALA
ISLAND.



DEEPLY IMPRESSED BY THE BARD'S ACCOUNT OF PADMINI, RATNASEN WENT TO SINHALA AND MARRIED HER.



ON THEIR JOURNEY BACK TO CHITTOR, PADMINI'S RELATIVES, GORA AND BADAL, ACCOMPANIED THE BRIDE.



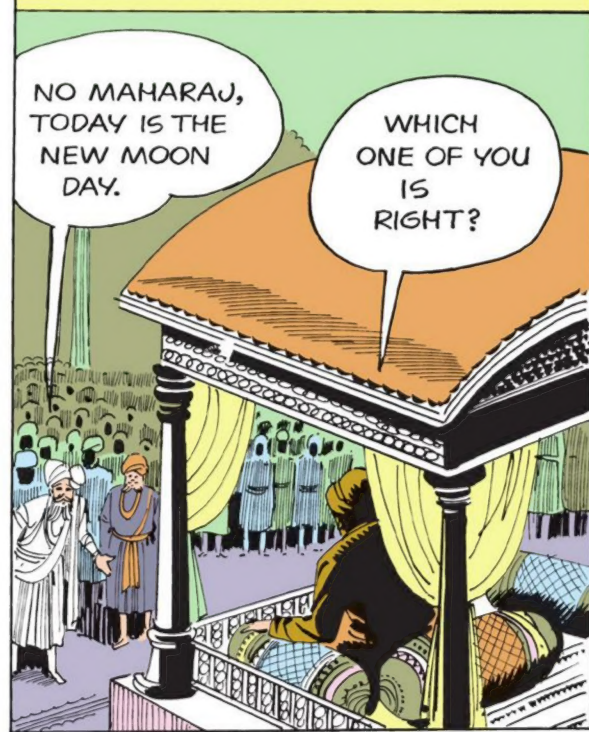
SOON KING RATNASEN WAS BACK IN THE COURT OF CHITTOR.



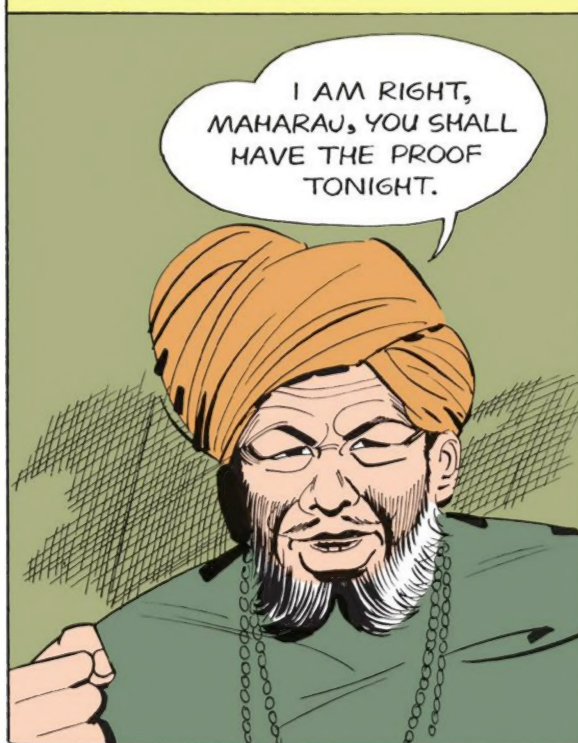
AMONG RATNASEN'S COURTIER'S WAS A SCHOLAR NAMED RAGHAV CHETAN. ONE DAY -



BUT RAGHAV CHETAN HAD MADE A MISTAKE IN HIS CALCULATIONS.



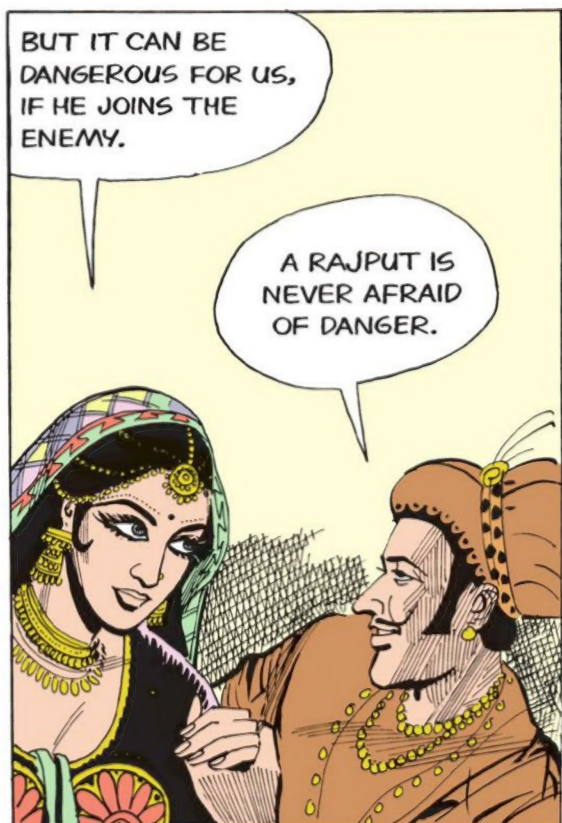
BEING A STUBBORN MAN RAGHAV DID NOT ADMIT HIS MISTAKE.

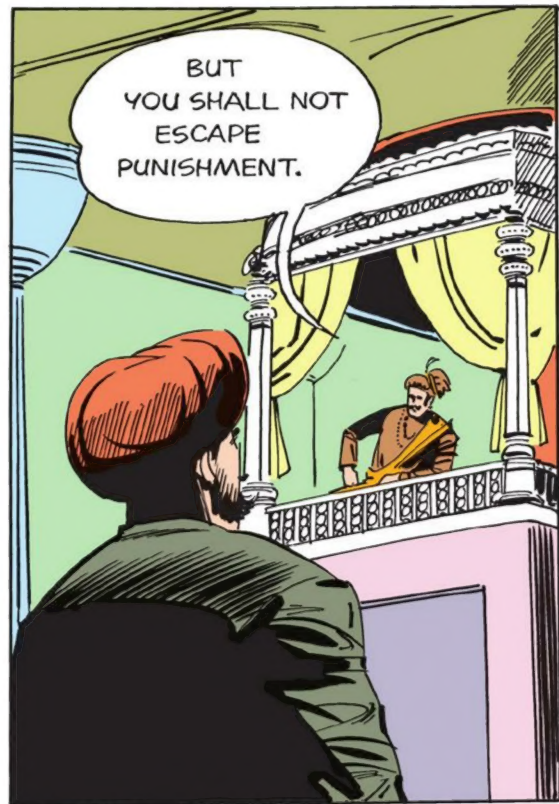


THAT NIGHT RAGHAV USED HIS SORCERY AND -









RAGHAV CHETAN, THEN PROCEEDED TOWARDS DELHI THROUGH JUNGLES.



ALA-UD-DIN, THE SULTAN OF DELHI, WAS HUNTING IN THE SAME JUNGLE.



SUDDENLY A MELODIOUS TUNE FILLED THE JUNGLE AIR.



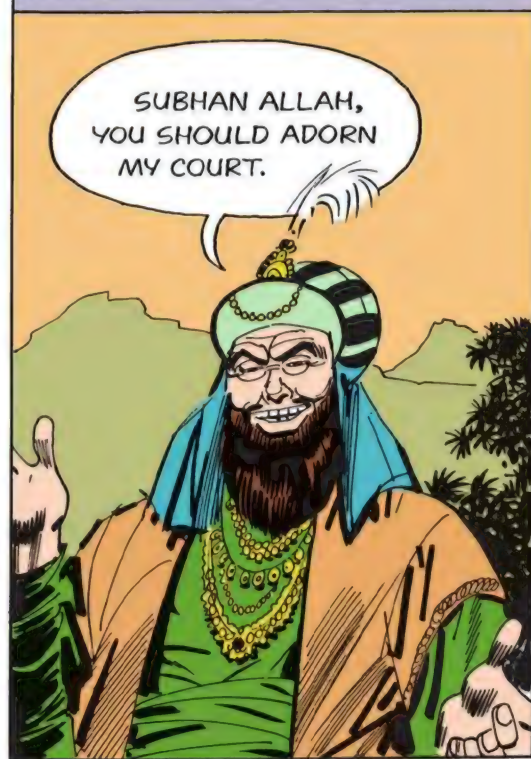
THE HERD OF DEER RAN IN THE DIRECTION FROM WHICH THE MUSIC CAME. FASCINATED, ALA-UD-DIN FOLLOWED THE DEER.



THE DEER STOPPED IN FRONT OF RAGHAV PLAYING HIS FLUTE. THEY WERE HYPNOTISED. SO WAS THE SULTAN.



HE HAD NEVER HEARD SUCH MUSIC.



THUS RAGHAV CHETAN JOINED THE DELHI COURT.

HEAVENLY MUSIC!

SULTAN, I KNOW WHAT YOU DESIRE MOST. THE WEALTH AND THE WOMEN OF OTHERS.



RATNASEN! BEWARE! NOW IT IS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME. I AM CATCHING UP.



ONE DAY A HUNTER PRESENTED A RABBIT TO THE SULTAN.



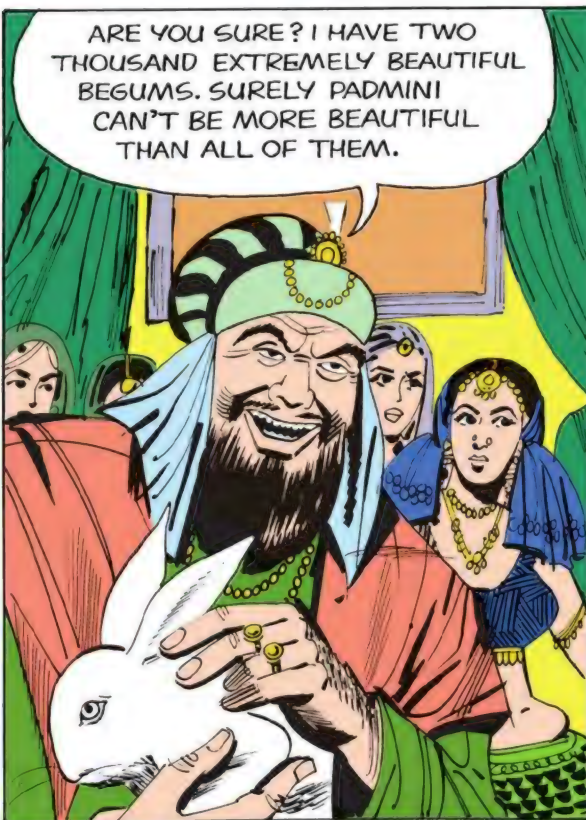
THERE CAN BE NOTHING MORE DELICATE THAN THIS CREATURE.

YOU ARE WRONG, SULTAN.

PADMINI, THE QUEEN OF CHITTOR IS. SHE IS THE MOST DELICATE AND BEAUTIFUL WOMAN IN THIS WORLD.



ARE YOU SURE? I HAVE TWO THOUSAND EXTREMELY BEAUTIFUL BEGUMS. SURELY PADMINI CAN'T BE MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN ALL OF THEM.



NO SULTAN, I INSIST THAT PADMINI IS THE MOST BEAUTIFUL WOMAN IN THE WORLD.



THERE AND THEN ALA-UD-DIN MADE A DECISION.

WELL THEN, PADMINI SHOULD
BE IN MY HAREM.

AND
CHITTOR UNDER
YOUR
RULE.



YES, A NEW
KINGDOM AND THE
MOST BEAUTIFUL WOMAN!
I CAN KILL TWO
BIRDS WITH
ONE STONE.



SOON ALA-UD-DIN'S ARMY BEGAN ITS MARCH
TOWARDS CHITTOR.



SO LARGE WAS THIS ARMY THAT THE DUST RAISED BY ITS
MARCH MASKED THE SUN.



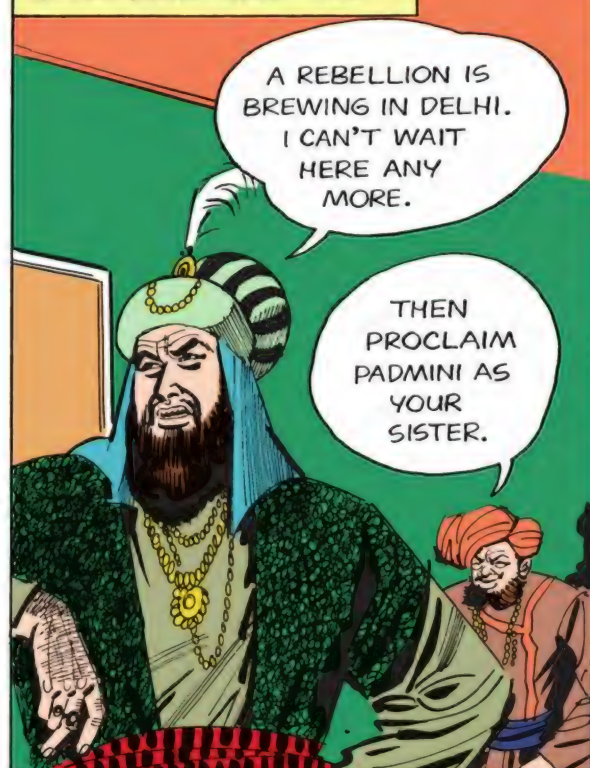
ALA-UD-DIN LAID A SIEGE AROUND THE FORT OF CHITTOR.
BUT TO CONQUER THE WELL-FORTIFIED FORT OF CHITTOR
WAS NOT AN EASY TASK.

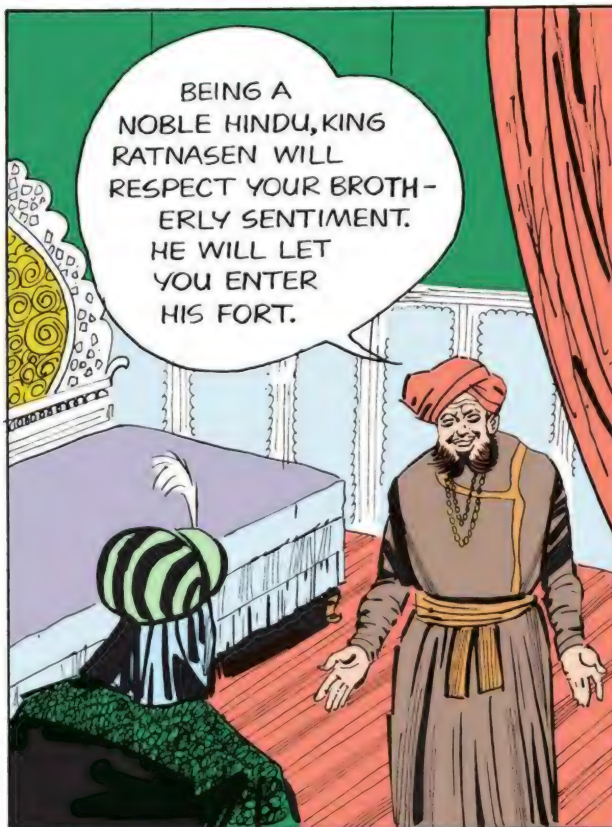


AFTER A LONG WAIT—



AFTER SOME MORE TIME—



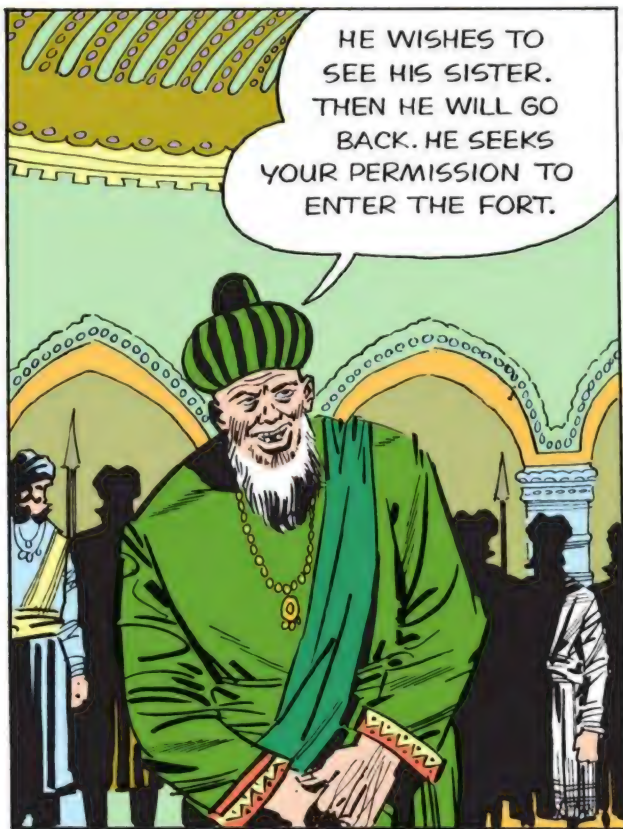


NEXT DAY ALA-UD-DIN'S MESSENGER VISITED THE CHITTOR COURT.



HUZUR, OUR SULTAN CALLS FOR PEACE. HE HAS PROCLAIMED HIMSELF A BROTHER TO QUEEN PADMINI.

HE WISHES TO SEE HIS SISTER. THEN HE WILL GO BACK. HE SEEKS YOUR PERMISSION TO ENTER THE FORT.



A BROTHER NEEDS NO PERMISSION TO MEET HIS SISTER. YOUR SULTAN IS MOST WELCOME.



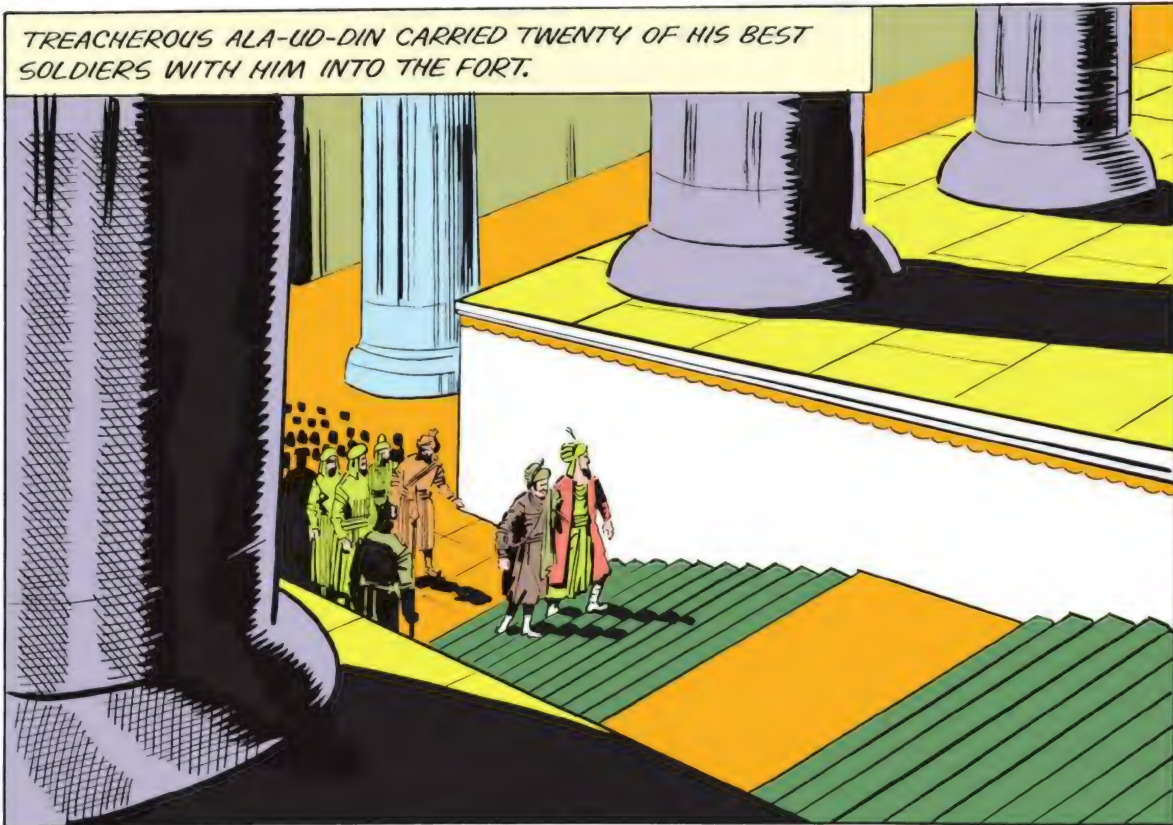
NEXT DAY...

MY WIFE'S
BROTHER IS MOST
WELCOME IN
MY HOME.

I AM
HONOURED.



TREACHEROUS ALA-UD-DIN CARRIED TWENTY OF HIS BEST
SOLDIERS WITH HIM INTO THE FORT.



UNSUSPECTING KING RATNASEN TREATED ALA-UD-DIN WITH GREAT RESPECT.



INFORM MAHARANI
PADMINI THAT HER
BROTHER HAS
ARRIVED.

AS YOU
WISH
MAHARAU!

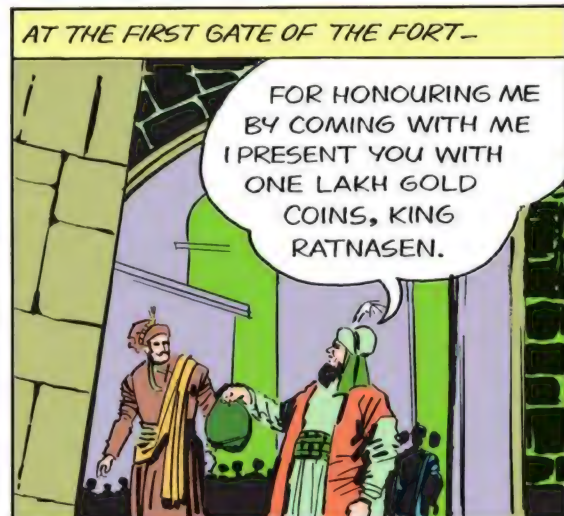
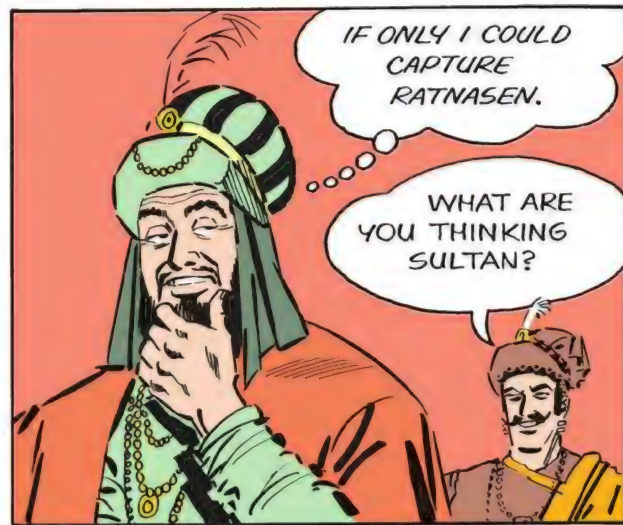


WHEN PADMINI DID NOT COME,
RATNASEN HIMSELF WENT
TO CALL HER.

NO, I WILL NOT
SHOW HIM MY FACE,
HE IS AN EVIL
MAN.

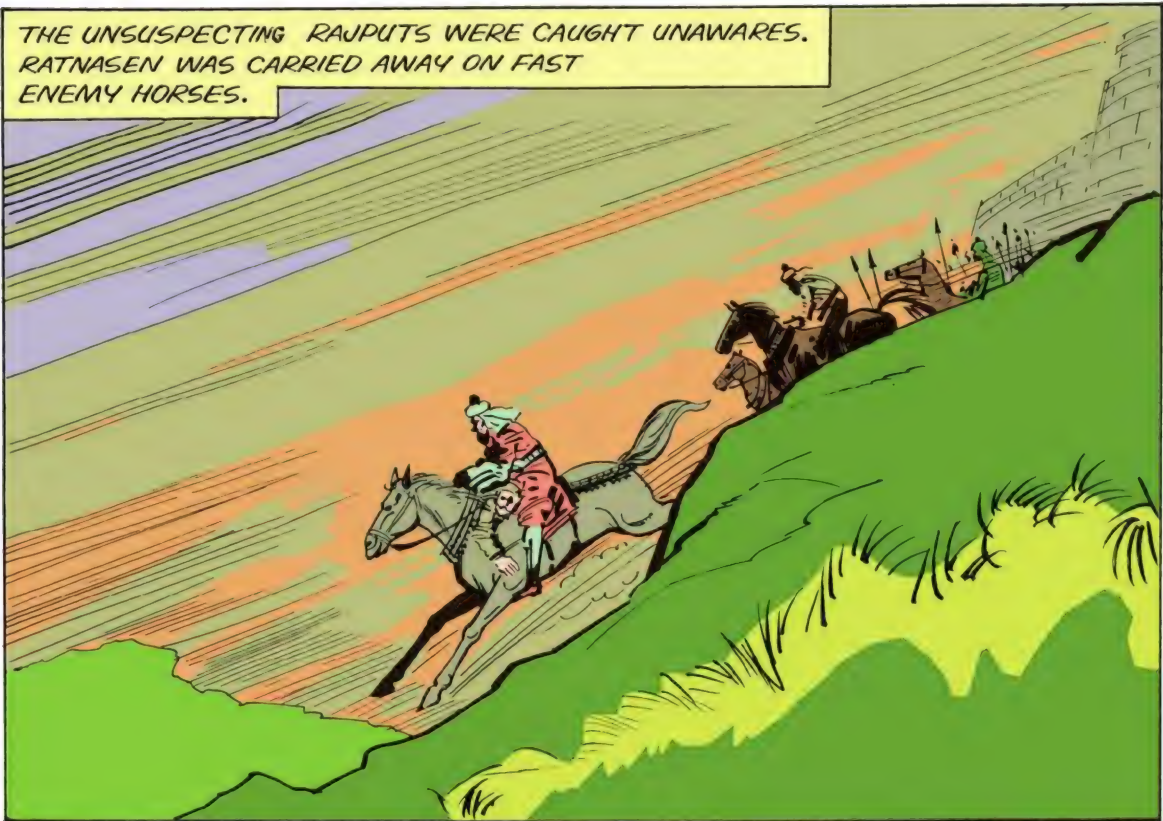




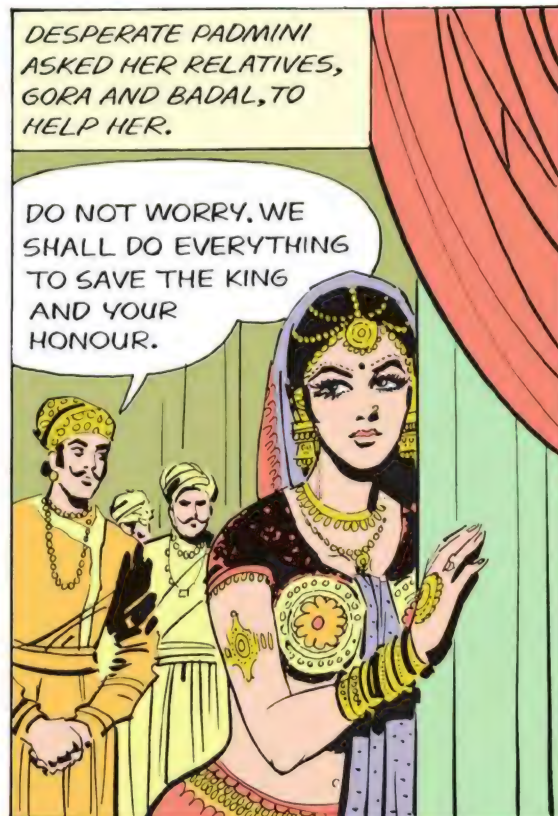




THE UNSUSPECTING RAUPUTS WERE CAUGHT UNAWARES.
RATNASÉN WAS CARRIED AWAY ON FAST
ENEMY HORSES.









PADMINI HAD FIVE HUNDRED MAIDS. NEXT MORNING
FIVE HUNDRED PALANQUINS LEFT THE FORT.



PADMINI'S PALANQUIN WAS CARRIED
TO PRISONER RATNASEN'S TENT.



KING RATNASEN WAS VERY UPSET.





RATNASEN WAS RELEASED AND RUSHED TOWARDS THE FORT. GORA DRESSED AS A PALANQUIN BEARER GAVE THE SIGNAL.



RATNASÉN REACHED THE FORT SAFELY.



BUT GORA WAS KILLED IN THE BATTLE.



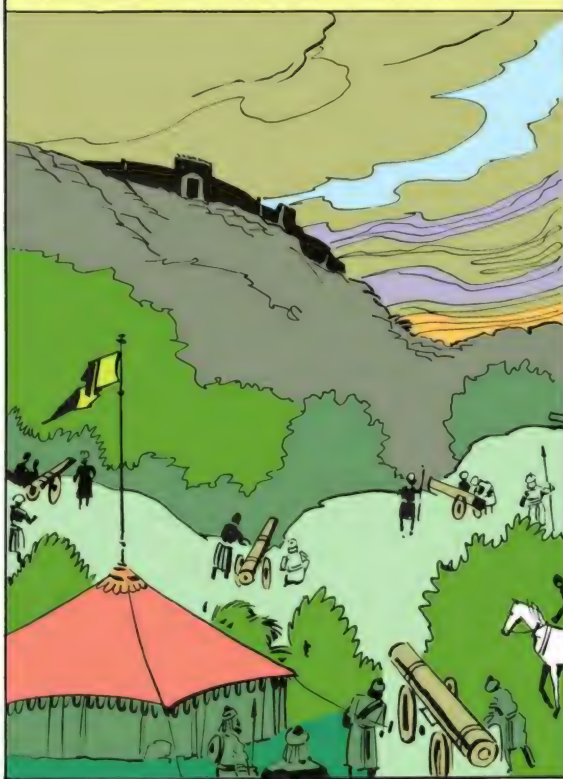
ALA-UD-DIN WAS FURIOUS.



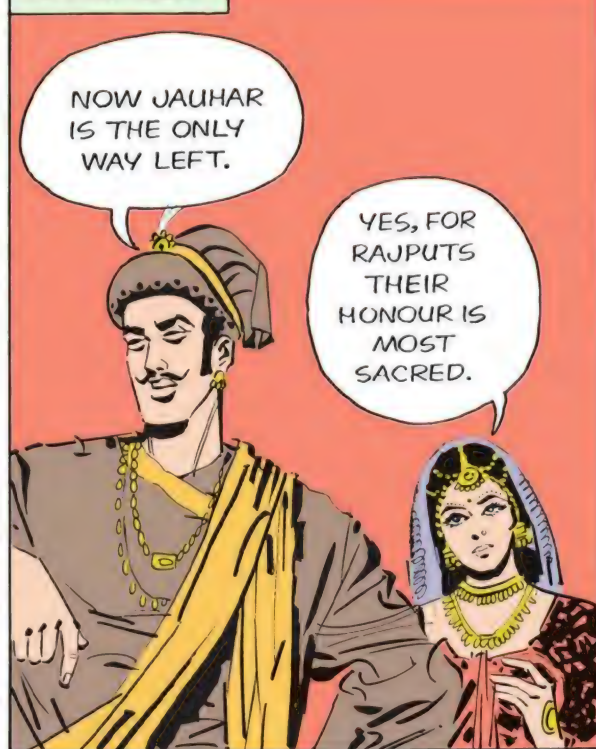
SOLDIERS
DRESSED AS
WOMEN AND
SERVANTS! THEY
MADE FOOLS
OF US.



THE SIEGE OF THE FORT CONTINUED.

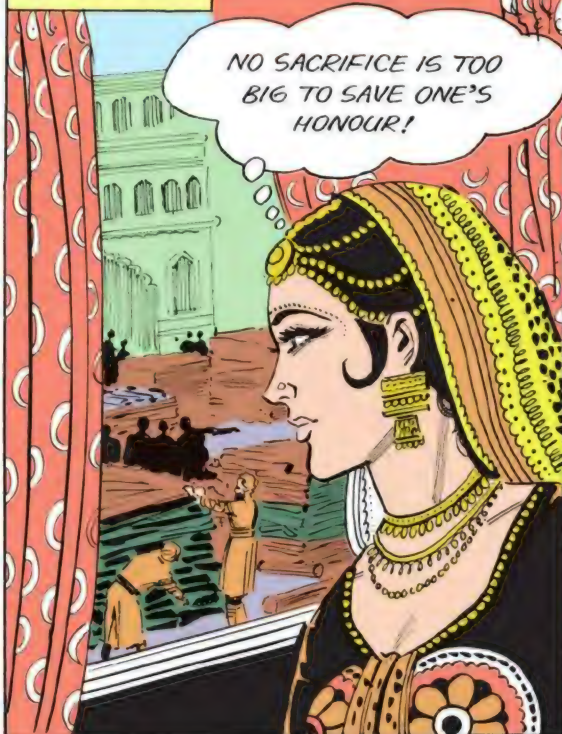


THE FOOD SUPPLIES IN THE FORT BEGAN TO DWINDLE.



SO, HUGE PYRES WERE LIT INSIDE THE FORT.

NO SACRIFICE IS TOO BIG TO SAVE ONE'S HONOUR!



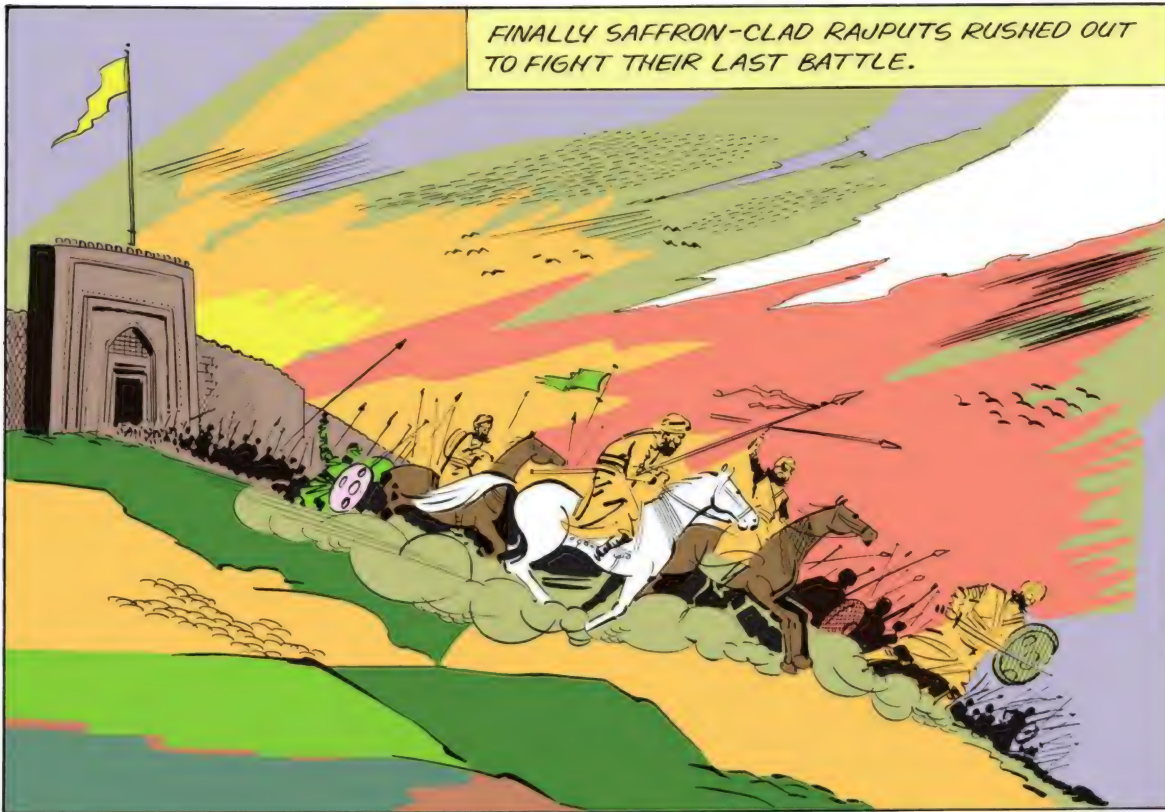
SO, PADMINI LED THE RAJPUT LADIES TO JAUHAR, THE GREAT SACRIFICE BY SELF-IMMOLATION.



THE RAJPUT WOMEN PREFERRED DEATH TO DISHONOUR.



FINALLY SAFFRON-CLAD RAUPUTS RUSHED OUT TO FIGHT THEIR LAST BATTLE.



AFTER THEIR WOMEN HAD PERFORMED JAUHAR, NO RAUPUT HAD ANY DESIRE LEFT TO LIVE. THEY WERE THERE TO DIE, BUT THEY TOOK A HEAVY TOLL OF ENEMY LIVES.



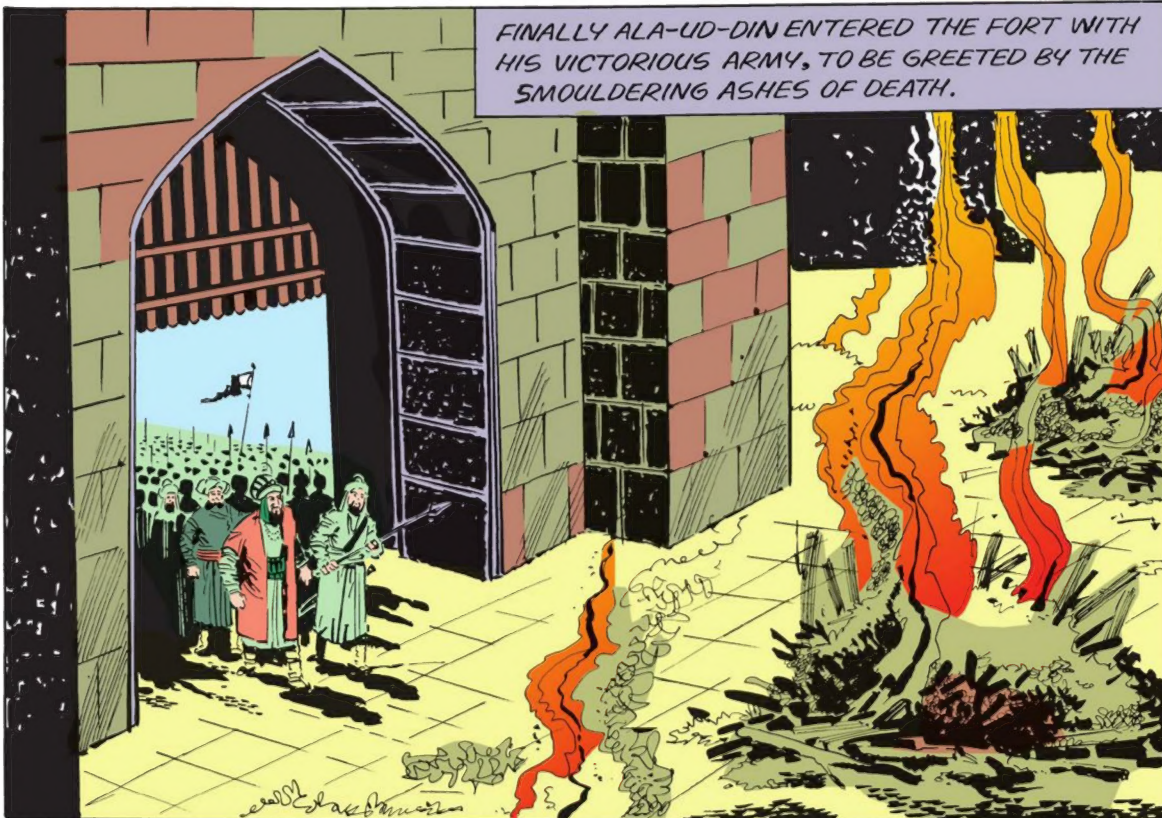
THE SMALL BAND OF RAJPUTS WAS NO MATCH TO THE HUGE ENEMY ARMY. SOON THE BATTLE WAS OVER.

WHY DIDN'T THEY SURRENDER. AGAINST MY ARMY? IT WAS SURE DEATH FOR THEM.

BUT WHAT A GLORIOUS DEATH!



FINALLY ALA-UD-DIN ENTERED THE FORT WITH HIS VICTORIOUS ARMY, TO BE GREETED BY THE SMOULDERING ASHES OF DEATH.





WHICH OF THE ACKs HAVE YOU STILL NOT READ?

<p>EPICS AND MYTHOLOGY <i>Best known stories from the Epics and the Puranas</i></p> <p>Abhimanyu Agastya Andhaka Aniruddha Aruni And Uttanka Ashwini Kumars Ayyappan Bahubali Bhanumati Bheema And Hanuman Bheeshma Chandrabhasa Dasharatha Dhruva And Ashtavakra Draupadi Drona Elephanta Gandhari Ganesha Ganesha And The Moon Ganga Garuda Ghatotkacha Hanuman Hanuman To The Rescue Harischandra Heroes Of Hampi Indra And Shachi Indra And Shibi Indra And Vritra Jagannatha Of Puri Jayadratha Kacha And Devayani Karna Karttikeya Konark Krishna Krishna And Jarasandha Krishna And Narakasura Krishna And Rukmini Krishna And Shishupala Krishna And The False Vaasudeva Kubera Kumbhakarna Mahabharata Mahiravana Nachiketa Nahusha Nala Damayanti Pareekshit Parashurama Prabhavati Pradyumna Pralhad Purushottam Dev And Padmavati Rama Ravana Humbled Saraswati Sati And Shiva Savitri Shiva Parvati Stories Of Creation Subhadra Sudama Sukanya Surya Tales From The Upanishads Tales Of Arjuna Tales Of Balarama Tales Of Durga Tales Of Indra Tales Of Narada</p>	<p>Tales Of Shiva Tales Of Vishnu Tales Of Yudhishtira Tapati Thanjavur The Churning Of The Ocean The Gita The Golden Mongoose The King In A Parrot's Body The Lord Of Lanka The Pandava Princes The Pandavas In Hiding The Parijata Tree The Sons Of Rama The Syamantaka Gem Tirupati Tripura Uloopi Vaishno Devi Vali Vishwamitra Yayati</p> <p>VISIONARIES <i>Inspiring tales of thinkers, social reformers and nation builders</i></p> <p>Adi Shankara Albert Einstein Anant Pai Babasaheb Ambedkar Basaveshwara Buddha Chaitanya Mahaprabhu Chanakya Chokha Mela Dayananda Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das Eknath Fa Hien Ghanshyamdas Birla Guru Arjan Guru Gobind Singh Guru Har Gobind Guru Nanak Guru Tegh Bahadur Hiuen Tsang J.R.D Tata Jagadis Chandra Bose Jamsetji Tata Jawaharlal Nehru Jayaprakash Narayan Jim Corbett Jnaneshwar Kabir Kalidasa Lal Bahadur Shastri Lokmanya Tilak M. 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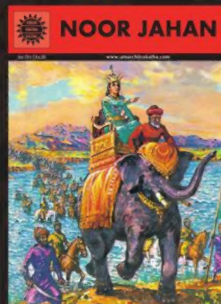
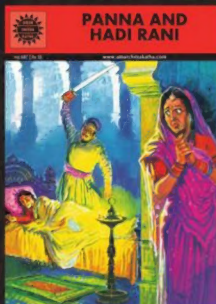


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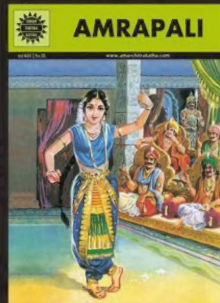
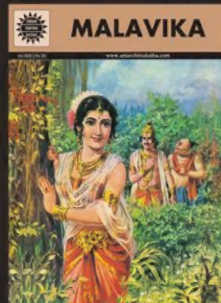
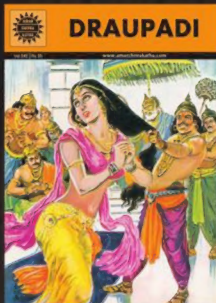
PADMINI

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ISBN 81-8482-291-X



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